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NORTH KOREAN INDUSTRIES LACK RAW MATERIALS

SOME PLANTS SHUT DOWN -- Yonhap Sinmun, 20 Dec 49

At present, many of the industries in North Korea are stagnant, according to information obtained by the representatives of the Pyongan Pukto provincial government stationed in Seoul.

In the manufacturing industry efforts have been exerted mainly on plant construction. A shortage of raw materials and the inadequacy of manufacturing equipment retard manufacturing operations. The anhydrous alcohol plants have been closed down due to the lack of raw materials and a shortage of technicians. The operation of the Yongamp'o Iron Refinery has been stopped altogether due to shortage of raw materials. It is now used as a civilian indoctrination center.

On the other hand, where production is in full swing, at the Sinuiju Spinning Mill, formerly known as the Oriental Cotton Mill, which supplies cotton cloth for military and civilian uses, the picture is different. Long hours and overwork have seriously damaged the workers' health, causing 56 percent of them to contract tuberculosis. This sort of problem prevails throughout the industries which are active.

The mines operated under the so-called People's Economic Program produced only 25 percent of the annual quota at the end of the first year. Intolerable living conditions are causing many deserters among the miners in the large mining areas, particularly Sinyon, Unsan, Unju, etc. It is reported that in spite of strict surveillance, as much as 20 to 30 percent of the total number of miners in a single locality sometimes desert in one day.

REDS ATTEMPT TO WAGE OPIUM WARFARE -- Hankook Ilbo, 29 Nov 49

Kim Tae-son, Chief of Seoul Municipal Police Bureau, announced on 29 November a discovery of what amounts to opium warfare waged by the North Korean Reds against the South Korean population. He disclosed that the North Korean Reds are using Chinese smugglers to transport large amounts of opium into South Korea.

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Police Chief Kim said that a large quantity of opium was confiscated recently from An San-yol, a member of the North Korean Labor Party, who was arrested in Seoul as an operative for the North Korean Reds. An confessed that the North Korean Labor Party has shipped a considerable amount of opium to the South Korean Labor Party with instruction to distribute it in South Korea to harm the health of South Koreans as much as possible. He also told police that, because of their skill as smugglers, the Chinese are extensively employed in smuggling the opium.

CONFISCATED GOODS AMOUNT TO 300 MILLION WON -- Hankook Sinmun, 29 Nov 49

Since trade with North Korea was made illegal in April 1949, large quantities of illegally-traded goods have been confiscated by the police and army along the 38th Parallel, in Inch'on and Pusan. The total value of such goods now reaches 300 million won. With the approval of President Rhee, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Commerce have decided to auction off these goods to the public shortly.

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